



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
81st ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Rep. Fred Clark Joined by Area Public School Advocates at the State Capitol

MADISON – This morning Representative Fred Clark (D-Sauk City) was joined by Baraboo School District Administrator Dr. Crystal Ritzenthaler, Former Sauk Prairie Superintendent Craig Bender, and Baraboo School Board member Doug Mering at the State Capitol to raise concerns with education provisions in the 2013-2015 State Budget and discuss alternative proposals.

Rep. Clark commented, “I have yet to hear from a single school leader, parent, teacher, educator, or school board member who supports the current education provisions in the budget. What’s being called a ‘compromise’ is nothing more than a legislature walking off a cliff, and it’s our duty to prevent that.”

Democratic legislators are bringing forward changes this week that include:

- Increasing public school funding by \$275 per pupil to restore roughly half of the funding cut from public schools last budget;
- Eliminating all language on proposed statewide expansion of taxpayer-funding of private voucher schools;
- Implementing DPI Superintendent Tony Evers’ “Fair Funding for our Future” school finance reform plan; and
- Mandating accountability measures for private voucher schools equal to those required of public schools.

Rep. Clark continued, “I go to the same education forums as my Republican colleagues, including Representatives Ripp, Brooks, and Marklein. They’ve heard the same message that I’ve heard – that expanding the proposed voucher program statewide is the beginning of the end for our democratically governed public school system. These deeply unpopular provisions will affect every school child, family, and taxpayer in Wisconsin.”

Rep. Clark concluded, “This is a camel’s nose in the tent for what could happen to public schools, and make no mistake this is a billion dollar camel. If it gets all the way in that tent, we will not have the public school system we have today.”